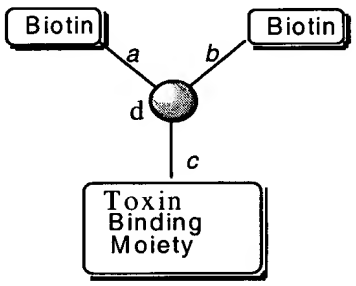
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown in the following listing:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for the conditioning of an extracorporeal device for the extraction of toxic material from mammalian body fluids in connection with diagnosis or treatment of a mammalian condition or disease, ~~wherein~~ comprising passing a solution containing a reagent represented as follows: ~~having the general formula:~~



wherein the ~~biotin moieties are~~ Biotin represents natural biotin or derivatives thereof,

wherein a, b, and c are linkers, which are the same or different, and wherein d is a trifunctional crosslinking moiety, ~~is passed~~ through a device having biotin binding ability, wherein the reagent is bound to the device, and ~~wherein~~ whereby said device ~~thereby~~ is converted from a biotin binding to a toxic material binding device.

2. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the tri-functional cross-linking moiety, containing three functional groups that are nucleophilic or are reactive with

nucleophiles, is an aliphatic or aromatic compound~~, preferably an aromatic compound with 1,3,5 substitution, most preferably derivatives of 1,3,5-benzene tricarboxylic acid, 3,5-diaminobenzoic acid, or 5-amino-1,3-dicarboxybenzene~~.

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the toxin binding moiety is a molecule that binds with high affinity to a toxic material with or without an effector molecule and is chosen from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of monoclonal antibodies including fragments or engineered counterparts thereof, aptamers, peptides, oligodeoxynucleosides including binding fragments thereof, intercalation reagents including dyes, chemotherapy agents, natural substances and metal chelates that specifically bind with toxic material with or without an effector molecule or to an effector molecule attached to the toxic material.

4. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein at least one ~~or more~~ of the linkers a, b, and c is~~/are~~ linear or branched and ~~contain(s)~~ contains water solubilizing functionalities or side groups containing amines, carboxylates or hydroxyl functionalities~~, preferably an alpha carboxylate or an N-methyl group in a view to~~ for improving the stability towards enzymatic cleavage of the biotinamide bond between the biotin moiety or a derivative thereof and the spacer.

5. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the biotin derivatives are chosen from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of norbiotin, homobiotin, oxybiotin,

iminobiotin, desthiobiotin, diaminobiotin, biotin sulfoxide, biotin sulfone or other biotin molecules having the ability to bind to avidin, streptavidin and derivatives thereof.

6. (Original) Method according to claim 4, wherein the linkers a and b provide a minimum of 20 Å and a maximum of 60 Å between the trifunctional cross-linking moiety and each biotin moiety carboxylate carbon atom when measured in a fully linearized form.

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7. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 3, wherein the toxin binding moiety has the ability to bind with high affinity to a toxic material ~~chosen~~ selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of metal ions, chemotherapy agents, free radionuclides, radionuclides bound to other compounds, ingested toxins, toxins produced by bacteria, ~~preferably endotoxins or enterotoxins,~~ toxins produced by viral infections, toxins produced by disease states, diseased cells, cells involved in the immune response, anti-blood group antibodies, anti-HLA antibodies, anti-xenoantibodies or any other undesirable endogenous component present in bodily fluid at an undesirable level as a result of a disease, disorder or incompatibility with therapeutic treatment~~, preferably TNF and cytokinins,~~ or any exogenous component that is or could be involved in a disease, disorder or medical incompatibility, preferably biotin binding molecules.

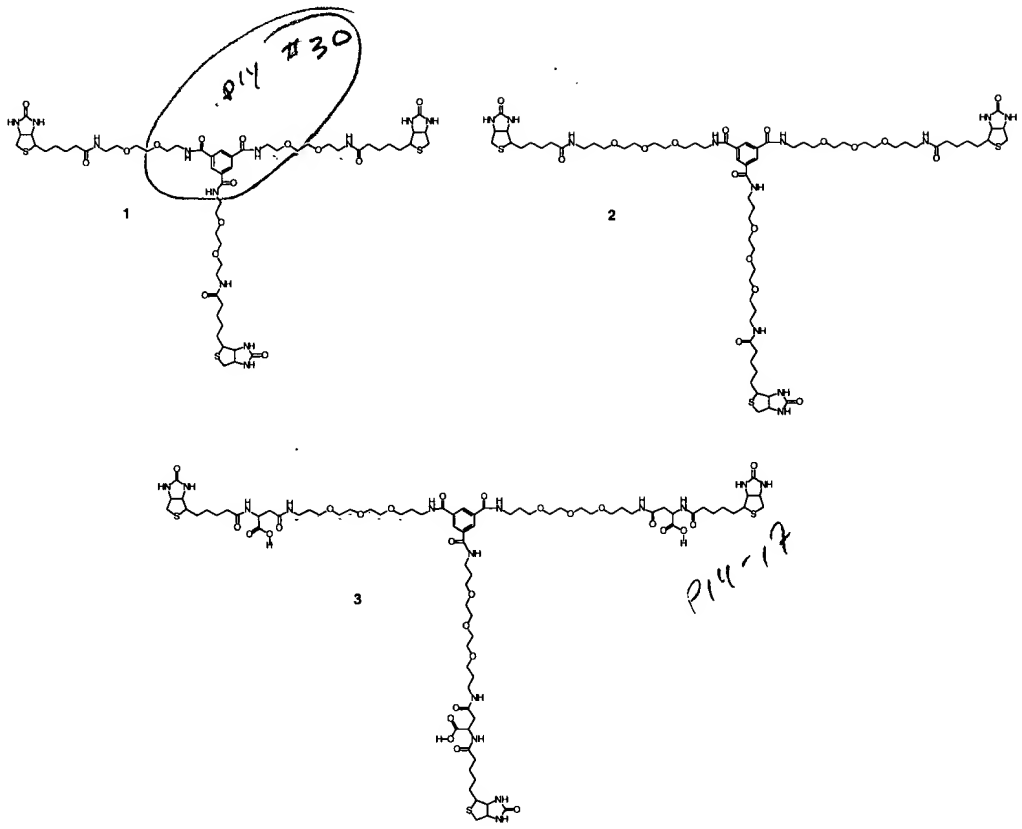
8. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 7, wherein the biotin binding molecule is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of avidin, streptavidin or

derivatives or fragments thereof having essentially the same binding function to biotin as avidin or streptavidin, and is optionally bound to an effector molecule.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Mehtod~~ Method according to claim 3, wherein the effector molecule is a radionuclide, a cytotoxic agent, a chelating agent for binding of radionuclides, a chemotherapy agent, a natural toxin or a derivative thereof, or a synthetic toxin.

10. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the toxin binding moiety is biotin, the spacers a, b, and c are 4, 7, 10-trioxa-, 13-tridecanediamine and the trifunctional cross-linking moiety is 5-amino-1, 3-dicarboxybenzene.

11. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein it is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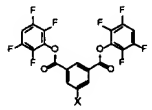
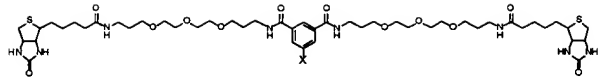
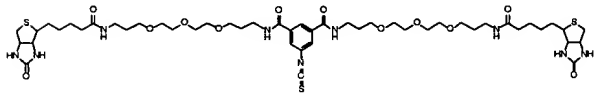




5: X = NH - tBoc
6: X = NH2



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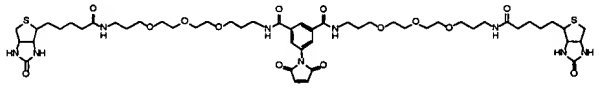

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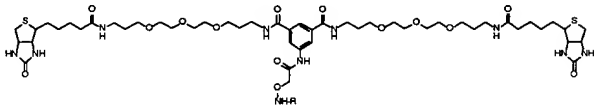

9: X = tBoc
10: X = H

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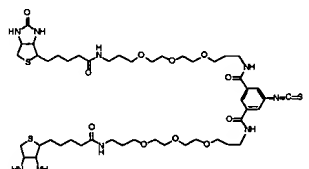

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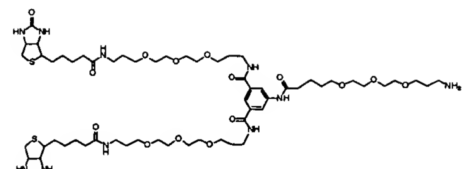

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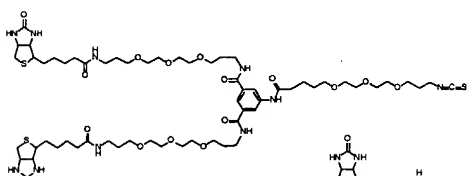

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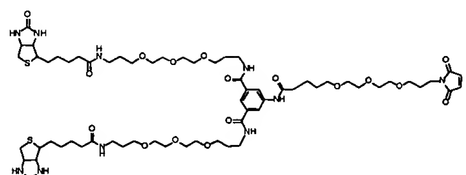

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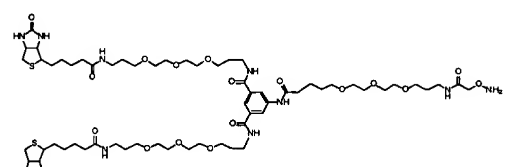

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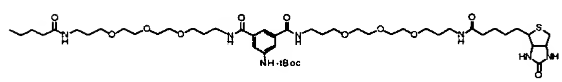

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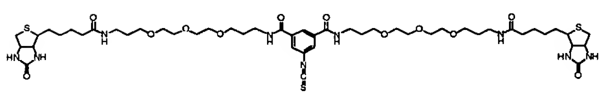

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21.~~12~~. (New) Method according to claim 2, wherein said compound is an aromatic compound with 1,3,5 substitution.

22. ~~13~~. (New) Method according to claim 12, wherein said aromatic compound is a derivative of 1,3,5 benzene tricarboxylic acid;

3,5 diaminobenzoic acid; or

5 amino 1,3-dicarboxybenzene.

23. ~~14~~. (New) Method according to claim 4, wherein at least oe of the linkers contains an alpha carboxylate or an N methyl group.

24. ~~15~~. (New) Method according to claim 7, wherein the toxins produced by bacteria are endotoxins or enterotoxins and said exogenous component is TNF or cytokinins.